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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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## OFFICERS OF UNIVERSITY-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

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<td>President, University of Illinois Alumni Association</td>
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I firmly believe that the University of Illinois is the state's most valuable asset for a prosperous future, and I tell people that wherever I go.

The U of I — with campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield — is a world-class institution that pays huge dividends on our state's and our families' higher education investment and delivers benefits that extend far beyond the borders of Illinois and the nation.

The University's impact is big because of its scale: 70,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students enrolled; 18,500 degrees awarded annually; a $4.2 billion annual operating budget, including $645 million in sponsored research.

The Urbana-Champaign campus boasts nationally ranked programs in engineering, science, business, agriculture, the arts and professions. The ground-breaking research and creative thinking of our faculty and alumni have been recognized for decades with 23 Nobel Prizes as well as MacArthur "genius" Fellowships, Fulbrights, Pulitzers and numerous other accolades. The Urbana campus’ 21st-century Extension provides education and service to Illinois citizens in all of Illinois’ 102 counties.

The Chicago campus educates more physicians than any other medical college nationally. UIC operates the state’s major public medical center and serves as the principal educator of Illinois’ dentists, pharmacists, nurses and other health-care professionals. The Great Cities Commitment at UIC continues to engage and enrich Chicago and advance knowledge of contemporary urban life.

In Springfield, we have made measurable progress on the goal of UIS to be one of the nation’s top five liberal arts universities. U.S. News and World Report ranks UIS as the best public university — master’s category — in the state and the fourth best in the Midwest.

And last year Global Campus was launched, expanding educational opportunity and access with state-of-the-art online coursework. We are working with the state’s community colleges to offer affordable, career-oriented bachelor’s degree-completion programs to students who can’t join us on our residential campuses.

Of course, the University’s best asset is its people. I am confident you’ll find the accomplishments of the U of I faculty, students and staff featured in this annual report as substantial, creative and exciting as I do.

Sincerely,

B. Joseph White
University administration provides centralized administrative services that are vital to supporting the primary missions of the institution: instruction, research, public service and economic development.

President B. Joseph White and senior staff champion higher education in the state and help develop strategies and solutions to educational challenges that are best addressed across the University of Illinois campuses.

System staff convey to government, corporate and civic leaders as well as to alumni and other stakeholders the variety and excellence of research and academic endeavors at the University of Illinois.

When President-elect Barack Obama put forth his proposals for a multi-billion dollar economic stimulus plan in early January 2009, the Institute of Government and Public Affairs' team of economists were quick to respond with expert analysis that brought calls from news media across Illinois.

Such calls are common at IGPA because journalists across the country know that IGPA is home to experts who will answer their questions without bias or spin. They know the analysis will be informed, timely and accurate.

The calls don’t just come from journalists. Political leaders, appointed government officials and their staffs routinely contact IGPA experts for technical assistance on matters that affect the people of the state.

IGPA experts make news daily. Faculty members hold joint appointments with departments on all three University of Illinois campuses and are among the finest researchers the state has to offer in the areas of public finance, the economy, health policy, social policy, racial policy and governance.

But research is only part of IGPA’s mission. The institute also is devoted to bringing the results of its research and analysis to the public, through its publications, seminars and other events. Since 1996, IGPA has been the home of the University of Illinois Flash Index, the first monthly barometer of the state’s economy.

The Illinois Report is a widely respected annual review of the major issues facing state policy makers, and Policy Forum presents faculty members’ research to an academic and policy audience.

A unit of University administration, IGPA also analyzes trends and techniques for the prevention of substance abuse and dropping out of school. High-tech data mining helps IGPA faculty and professionals search for new solutions to policy issues. And IGPA is out front in developing leadership education for elected and appointed officials, law enforcement and emergency responders.

The IGPA website (www.igpa.uiuc.edu) provides access to the research and initiatives of the institute.
report to the president and serve as board advisers.

Nine trustees are appointed by the Governor for six-year terms, and three student trustees (one from each campus) are elected for one-year terms. One student trustee is designated by the Governor to have an official vote. The Governor serves as an ex officio member of the board. The trustees all serve on a voluntary, non-remunerated basis.

The current board chairman is Niranjan S. Shah, who was elected in January 2009. Shah, chairman and chief executive of a Chicago-based engineering firm, has been a member of the board since 2003.

In addition to its meetings every two months, the board works on behalf of the University in a number of standing committees. The committees are academic affairs, access, athletics, buildings and grounds, external affairs, finance and investment, governance, human resources, legal affairs, strategic planning, technology and economic development, and University hospital. Shah chairs the board’s three-member Executive Committee, which meets to transact urgent business that cannot be postponed to a regularly scheduled board meeting. At its January meeting, the board elected Frances G. Carroll and Robert F. Vickrey to serve on the Executive Committee with the chairman.

Trustees also serve on a number of external boards, including those of the University of Illinois Alumni Association and U of I Foundation; the Illinois Research Park; and IllinoisVENTURES LLC, which provides funding and business-development support for early-stage companies that commercialize technology, inventions and innovations, largely from University research.

Global Campus offers degree programs, pursues independent accreditation

Global Campus, the University’s ambitious online virtual campus, is launching five new highly affordable, career-oriented degree programs in the fall of 2009.

President B. Joseph White said, “We can deliver high-quality University of Illinois degrees for $30,000-$40,000, less than one-half the cost of residential degrees. Students, whose circumstances don’t allow them to join us on our campuses, can complete these degrees while remaining in their home towns, taking care of their family responsibilities and maintaining their employment.”

Two 60-credit hour bachelor’s degree programs in psychology and environmental sustainability will go online in September, together with master’s degrees in education, e-learning, teacher leadership and an executive degree in public administration. Programs already online include a bachelor’s degree in business administration, a bachelor’s completion degree in nursing for registered nurses and a master’s degree in recreation, sport and tourism.

In 2008, Global Campus established partnerships with Parkland College and Kankakee Community College so their students can make a seamless transition to Global Campus’ bachelor’s degree-completion programs. The effort is expanding to include all 48 Illinois community colleges for the nursing and business administration completion degrees. Global Campus is adding offices at each community college to assist their students with advising, admissions and matriculation into Global Campus programs.

In November 2008, the Board of Trustees charged Global Campus with seeking independent accreditation, and in December the Illinois Board of Higher Education confirmed the authority of Global Campus as a degree-granting entity. Final Higher Learning Commission accreditation is expected in fall 2010.
Charles Slichter, Research Professor of Physics and Center for Advanced Study Emeritus Professor of Physics and Chemistry, was selected as a recipient of the 2007 National Medal of Science. He received the medal from President Bush at a White House ceremony in September 2008.

Chancellor Richard Herman and Jeffrey Moore, the Murchison-Mallory Professor of Chemistry, were elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2008. Founded in 1780, the academy is an independent policy research center that conducts multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems.

Bruce Smith, noted legal historian and award-winning University of Illinois law professor, was named dean of the College of Law in early 2009.

Phillip Newmark, a professor of cell and developmental biology, and Wilfred van der Donk, the Richard E. Herckert Professor of Chemistry, were named Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigators in 2008. They were among 56 biomedical scientists selected from more than 1,000 applications submitted during a nationwide competition.

Historian Peter Fritzsche’s new book, “Life and Death in the Third Reich,” draws extensively on German diaries and letters from 1933-45 and argues that fear of Germany’s destruction was what made Nazism appealing to German citizens. The book was one of three finalists for the Cundill International Prize in History.
Established in 1867, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a world leader in research, teaching and public engagement and is distinguished by broad academic excellence. Faculty conduct world-class interdisciplinary research: creating knowledge, addressing critical societal needs through the transfer and application of knowledge and preparing students for lives of impact.

The Urbana campus has tremendous breadth and depth in academics, offering its 41,000 students more than 150 undergraduate and more than 100 graduate and professional programs. A wide range of extracurricular opportunities — from hundreds of student organizations and extensive intramural recreation facilities to museums and Big Ten sports — strengthen their educational experience and prepare them to be leaders in a global society.

The outstanding faculty and leading-edge research contribute to many of the campus’ academic programs being ranked among the best in the world. This emphasis on campus-wide academic excellence has solidified Illinois’ reputation as one of the nation’s premier public universities.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a meeting place for great scholars, great ideas and great accomplishments across a broad range of disciplines.
Carmel Chiswick, in her book “The Economics of American Judaism,” introduces the concept of practicing religion in less time-consuming ways because of reduced free time, an adaptive religious ritual she says is found only in the US.

Alan Kozikowski, professor of medicinal chemistry and pharmacognosy and director of the UIC drug discovery program, was one of four international scientists to receive the third annual Novel Approaches to Drug Discovery for Alzheimer’s Disease award sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation.

Abagail McWilliams, professor of managerial studies, is co-editor of “The Oxford Handbook of Corporate Social Responsibility,” a new book helping companies gain fresh perspectives on practices that are beneficial to both society and corporations.

“I am very excited and enthusiastic about the opportunity to lead this great institution,” said Paula Allen-Meares in January 2009 when she assumed the chancellor post. Building on UIC’s “intellectual breadth, the strength of the academic units and full complement of health-sciences colleges,” Allen-Meares’ priorities include moving forward on UIC’s strategic plan and fundraising to ensure both academic excellence and financial support for students to pursue their educations.

The former dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan, Allen-Meares was selected from a field of more than 100 candidates for the top position at UIC. She has a distinguished academic record and her interest and expertise focus on social work as it relates to educational settings and adolescents. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies and is a trustee of the New York Academy of Medicine. She also holds faculty appointments in social work and education at UIC and Urbana.
The University of Illinois at Chicago provides access to excellence — the resources of a top research university in the heart of one of the world’s great metropolises.

Located in one of the nation’s largest and most diverse cities, UIC is an urban research university that is a vital partner in the educational, technological and cultural fabric of the Chicago metropolitan area.

More than 25,000 students benefit from the campus’ deep commitment and ties to its community. The UIC student body, one of the nation’s most diverse, reflects the global character of Chicago — more than a third speak English as a second language.

Through the campus’ Great Cities Commitment, faculty, staff and students participate in hundreds of programs seeking model solutions to urban challenges in Chicago and around the globe. A noted research center, particularly in urban affairs, medicine and the health sciences, UIC is committed to creating and disseminating new knowledge.

The campus operates the state’s major public medical center and is a principal educator of Illinois’ physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and other health-care professionals. With branches in Peoria, Rockford and Urbana, the College of Medicine educates more physicians than any other university in the nation.
Deanie Brown was named associate chancellor for access and equal opportunity in 2008. Brown is an alumnus of both the Urbana and Chicago campuses.

Clarice Ford is director of the Diversity Center, a new campus office that fosters a supportive environment for students to live, learn and grow as members of the UIS academic community and as individuals. Dr. Ford and Chancellor Richard Ringeisen welcomed students, faculty and staff at the center’s grand opening in August 2008.

Richard Gilman-Opalsky, assistant professor of political philosophy, is the author of “Unbounded Publics: Transgressive Public Spheres, Zapatismo, and Political Theory,” which examines the concept of the public sphere and the ways it has been theorized as a driving mechanism for social and political change.

UIS will join the Great Lakes Valley Conference in the 2009-2010 academic year. The 10-sport Prairie Stars have been part of the American Midwest Conference.

Tejesh Morla, a graduate student in computer science, created a web application that was one of the winners in a MySQL and GlassFish contest sponsored by SUN Microsystems.
The University of Illinois at Springfield offers its students, faculty and staff an intellectually rich, collaborative and intimate learning environment.

Students who attend UIS are attracted by the outstanding liberal arts education offered on the capital-city campus. Faculty and students enrich the life of the city of Springfield, where public policy and politics are intimately connected with the community. Graduates assume leadership positions in government, media and communications.

By pairing academic excellence with small class size, high-quality programs and internships in public affairs, journalism and government, UIS offers a unique educational experience to the more than 3,000 students who study on campus and the more than 1,600 who study online and off campus. UIS has an award-winning, national reputation for its online learning initiatives.

Each undergraduate’s life is enriched by participating in programs that open doors to the world beyond the borders of the campus. Making a difference in the world is a tenet of the UIS educational philosophy.

www.uis.edu
Building relationships for life is more than a promise for the University of Illinois Alumni Association (UIAA). It’s a commitment of service to the more than 580,000 living alumni of the University. With staff in Urbana, Chicago and Springfield, UIAA provides programming and services that develop and maintain alumni connections with each other and with the institution.

In 2008, UIAA launched a groundbreaking, universal membership model that expands involvement in the association to all alumni and current students. The new model expands the reach of members around the globe to each other and to the University.

UIAA is now home to the growing alumni advocacy initiative called Illinois Connection, which coordinates still more involvement and input in matters that are important to alumni and to the University.

Alumni are a permanent part of the University of Illinois family, and their support of UIAA programs, services and events fosters participation and pride in the University.
Karl McDermott, a former commissioner of the Illinois Commerce Commission, was invested as the UIS Ameren Distinguished Professor of Business and Government in September 2008. Among his research interests are antitrust economics, monetary economics, environmental economics and economic history. McDermott, who specializes in public utility regulation, is one of four named professors on the campus. Ameren Corporation provides energy services in Illinois and Missouri.

A $10 million bequest from Chicago history teacher Romuald Hejna is the second-largest gift from an individual UIC has ever received and the biggest single gift to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The funds will be used to establish two chairs in Polish history and one in Polish language and culture. Hejna, an Urbana alumnus who attended Navy Pier and who made his gifts anonymously, previously established a scholarship in Polish history. He was identified as the donor following his death in 2008.

H. Richard McFarland attended a preview of the Sarah "Sally" McFarland Carillon during the fall of 2008. The carillon project, spearheaded by McFarland in memory and honor of his wife, Sally, includes a 173-foot tower containing 48 bells and a bank of 500 songs. A formal dedication of the carillon, located near Mumford Hall, and a surrounding plaza on the south campus is scheduled for 2009.
UIC dental students take services to children and disenfranchised

In the summer of 2008, UIC dental students opened a dental clinic at a community agency that assists homeless adults become self-sufficient through employment and supportive services.

The director of Goldie’s Place, Johanna Dalton, said dental health is an important part of the array of attributes and attitudes necessary to negotiate the transition from the streets to the workaday world. Most middle-class people take such employability attributes for granted. For homeless people, they are anything but.

“There are very few sources of dental care available to people who are homeless,” Dalton said. “Yet exhibiting good dental hygiene and being pain free are essential elements of employability and maintaining stable employment.”

Or, as it says on Goldie’s Place website: “Nothing kills an interview like a missing tooth.”

The UIC students are providing routine dental services such as cleanings, fillings and extractions. Henry Schein Cares, the foundation arm of Henry Schein Inc., provided the equipment to put the clinic in business, and the College of Dentistry chipped in with the loan of three dental chairs and other equipment.

Community-based service learning experiences are required of all fourth-year UIC dental students at sites throughout Chicago, Rockford, Colorado and Guatemala. In 2007, 16,000 procedures were conducted at the sites. The dental students also expanded their efforts to underserved Illinois children starting in January 2008 thanks to a $1.5 million grant from the Illinois Children’s Health Care Foundation.

“The College of Dentistry recognizes that it is imperative to graduate more dentists prepared to meet the needs of underserved communities and Illinois’ children,” said Dr. Caswell Evans, the dentistry college’s associate dean for prevention and public health sciences.

“One of our current goals is to prepare an oral health-care workforce that is competent in and committed to addressing the oral-health needs of vulnerable and underserved populations and to play its part in eliminating health disparities.”

Reporting by Sam Hostettler

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Ethics officer honored

University of Illinois Ethics Officer Donna McNeely received the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission’s 2008 Abraham Lincoln Ethics Award that recognizes a state employee who has a “demonstrated record of exemplary adherence to the principles of integrity, fairness and service” to Illinois citizens. In her position, McNeely is responsible for ethics issues across all three campuses. Among the initiatives undertaken by Ethics Office staff are an ethics handbook and newsletter, information sessions for campus coordinators and workshops on conflicts of interest and commitment. The office has been tapped to coordinate and offer online training for 80,000 employees at the nine Illinois public institutions of higher education in 2009.

CHICAGO

Superb musicianship at Carnegie Hall

The UIC Singers and conductor Michael Anderson had a full house and received a standing ovation when they played Carnegie Hall in 2008. Vocalists from across the country and the New England Symphonic Ensemble joined The UIC Singers in the evening’s performance. Anderson, chairman of the Department of Performing Arts and director of choral and vocal studies, is known internationally for his devotion to choral music. To encourage college-bound students to continue their interest in music, Anderson founded the UIC Choral Music Educational Opportunities Program and is a co-founder of the Choral Resource Center at UIC.

URBANA

Positive impact of online teaching

Caroline Haythornthwaite believes the value of e-learning has been underestimated at the college level and that some of its methods and techniques can augment traditional classroom learning. According to the professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, e-learning turns teaching and learning into a shared endeavor. Compared with a traditional, face-to-face classroom setting, e-learning is a more learner-friendly alternative that gives the teacher a different role, that of facilitator, which motivates students to be more engaged and to take responsibility for what they are learning. However much e-learning may reshape education, Haythornthwaite says it’s not necessarily meant to supplant classroom learning but to supplement it.
A model research enterprise

John A. Rogers, the Lee J. Flory Founder Chair in Engineering Innovation, is a chemist by training, but he characterizes his research as “highly multidisciplinary … combining expertise from nearly every traditional field of technical study.”

Rogers (back row, left) describes his fundamental research interests as materials and patterning technologies for unusual-format electronics and photonics systems and basic and applied research in nano- and molecular-scale fabrication.

The Rogers Group of young researchers numbers about 50, including graduate students, post docs, visiting faculty and even undergraduates. By discipline, they’re chemists; physicists; electrical, mechanical and chemical engineers; and materials scientists. They come from Urbana and other top American universities including Stanford, Northwestern, Cornell and MIT and from numerous other countries. The team also collaborates with other professors on campus, at other universities and with corporate labs.

Think of the Rogers Group as the model of the 21st century research enterprise.

Rogers and his team, together with researchers at Northrop Grumman, garnered a stack of press clippings in 2008 for their work creating a curvilinear-shaped electronic-eye camera based on the biological design of the human eye and made out of stretchable sheets of optoelectronics.

Rogers says, “The ability to wrap high-quality silicon devices onto complex surfaces and biological tissues adds very interesting and powerful capabilities to electronic and optoelectronic device design, with many new application possibilities.”

Applications range from electronics to biomedical devices to solar energy.

He says he chose to work on the Urbana campus because of its reputation in multidisciplinary, collaborative research. He hasn’t been disappointed.

“The U of I is even better than I thought. It’s a dynamic but informal environment with big departments with professors and groups that can be co-located all over campus. Interdisciplinary centers like the Beckman Institute and the Materials Research Lab also are critical.”

Reporting by James E. Kloeppel

Helping nonprofits help themselves

UIC is creating a network to help Illinois nonprofits and small municipalities access federal grants and build partnerships for community improvement using a three-year, $2.25 million grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation. Illinois ResourceNet, based in UIC’s signature Great Cities Institute, will provide a website as well as web-based seminars, conferences, workshops, a resource center and technical assistance to nonprofits that might lack the resources to carry out their missions and projects. Richard Kordesh, director of Illinois ResourceNet and a fellow in the Great Cities Institute, says that a university brings a variety of assets to the project, including technology, knowledgeable staff and objectivity. Other collaborators include the UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and Extension staff from the Urbana campus.

Goal: Reduce HIV/AIDS

Family Health International (FHI) awarded UIC an $8.6 million grant to take part in the Male Circumcision Consortium. Established by a five-year, $18.5 million grant to FHI from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the consortium will improve and expand voluntary medical circumcision services throughout Kenya as part of an overall strategy to reduce HIV infections in men. Recent studies conducted in African countries, including one led by UIC epidemiologist Robert Bailey, have shown that medical circumcision dramatically reduces a man’s risk of acquiring HIV from an infected woman. UIC and a Kenyan partner organization will expand and further support a medical circumcision training center to build capacity in Kenyan public health facilities and among private practitioners, monitor and evaluate the safety and quality of the services, and evaluate whether men change their behavior after being circumcised.
For an expert whose research has followed the money in Illinois politics, the long and highly charged election season of 2008 was probably not an optimum year for dialing back a bit.

After 29 years at UIS, political science professor Kent Redfield retired in September 2008. But apparently nobody told the political reporters from Springfield, Chicago and New York who continued to call looking for insight and the inside scoop on Illinois politics and politicians.

Through it all, Redfield remains perhaps that rarest of Illinois political animals, a perennial idealist and optimist, a prescient voice for change and reform, believing that the goals of politics are to act honorably and to make things better.

Two of Redfield’s former students and interns, Seth Hosick and Donovan Pepper, are co-chairing the Kent Redfield Scholarship Committee. They were participants in the Legislative Internship Program that Redfield ran for 20 years.

The scholarship was Hosick’s idea. The goal is to raise a $25,000 scholarship endowment so the annual earnings can go to future UIS political science students in Redfield’s honor in perpetuity.

“Kent’s more than your everyday teacher,” Hosick said. “He’s a wonderful person, inside and outside of the classroom, who touched lots of lives. ‘Look at the small things,’ he’d say. ‘Where’s the money coming from. Follow the money. Follow the power.’”

For Professor Emeritus Redfield, “retirement” is bound to be a relative term. He’ll continue teaching one course per semester. He edited a book of essays, “Democratic Renewal: A Call to Action from America’s Heartland,” last year. He’s the author of two more: “Cash Clout” and “Money Counts.” And he’ll surely keep picking up the phone when reporters and former students call.

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**CHICAGO**

**Value of clinical pharmacists**

Clinical pharmacy services can significantly reduce the cost of prescription drugs and save money elsewhere in the health care system, according to a new study by Glen Schumock, associate professor and director of UIC’s Center for Pharmacoconomic Research. For every dollar spent by hospitals or health systems to provide clinical pharmacy services, $4.81 was saved through lower drug costs, reductions in adverse drug events and medication errors, and other savings. Schumock and his colleagues evaluated 93 studies published between 2001 and 2005 to uncover the impact of clinical pharmacy services, defined as services that involve direct patient care by a clinical pharmacist.

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**URBANA**

**Surveys join Urbana campus**

The four state scientific surveys — the Illinois State Geological Survey, the Illinois Natural History Survey, the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center and the Illinois State Water Survey — became part of the Urbana campus in July 2008. The surveys are organized as a new unit, the Institute for Natural Sciences and Sustainability, and serve as a focal point for applied energy, environmental science and sustainability programs throughout the state. The surveys’ integration with the University is expected to maximize operational efficiencies and expand opportunities for collaborative research and access to funding, technology commercialization, programmatic enhancements and experiential learning for students.

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**CHICAGO**

**Stayin’ alive stays with ’em**

The ideal rate for CPR is 100 compressions per minute. A study by David Matlock at the College of Medicine in Peoria showed that medical students and doctors who learned to perform CPR while listening to the Bee Gees’ 1977 hit “Stayin’ Alive” were able to maintain the proper CPR rhythm long after completing their training even though they were not listening to the song. Although using the tune was not new, the Matlock study was the first serious research into the effectiveness and long-term impact of the music. The results of the study were widely reported, including in the New York Times, BBC, Chicago Tribune and numerous news websites.
**URBANA**

**Gaming an advantage**

A desire to rule the world may be a good thing if you’re over 60 and worried about losing your mental faculties. A new study found that adults in their 60s and 70s can improve a number of cognitive functions by playing a strategic video game that rewards nation-building and territorial expansion. In the first such study of older adults, psychology professor Arthur Kramer and postdoctoral researcher Chandramalika Basak found that several important cognitive skills improved in older adults who were trained in a strategic video game that rewards nation-building and territorial expansion. The research was funded by grants from the National Institute on Aging.

**CHICAGO**

**Improved treatment for stroke victims**

What you see often affects what you do. A UIC research team led by David Vaillancourt, assistant professor of kinesiology and bioengineering, hopes a better understanding of the neurological processes involved in translating visual cues into motor actions could lead to improved treatment for stroke and brain injuries. Vaillancourt, principal investigator of a $1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, will gather data from healthy research volunteers in their early 20s through mid-30s, who will undergo functional magnetic resonance imaging brain scans so the researchers can learn how the central nervous system processes visual information during motor control.

**SPRINGFIELD »**

**Swearing in**

In January 2009, the Illinois House of Representatives met in Sangamon Auditorium to swear in new members of the 96th General Assembly and elect officers. Nearly two million people have visited Sangamon Auditorium since it opened in 1981. The facility seats more than 2,000.

**URBANA »**

**Youth literature festival**

More than 2,000 children and their parents and teachers attended readings and activities as part of the first Youth Literature Festival organized by the Urbana College of Education. The event, which took place in October 2008, brought more than 20 authors and illustrators, many with national followings, into 44 schools in east-central Illinois for readings and activities. The festival culminated in an all-day celebration with activities such as puppetry, storytelling, musical performances, poetry readings and book signings, which spanned venues across Urbana and Champaign.
UIC College Prep: The LSV Campus of the Noble Street Charter School.

UIC Prep is part of the Chicago Public School system, and LSV is the corporate donor. Noble Street Charter School, which runs six other Chicago charter schools, provides the organizational and operating structure. All Chicago-area students are eligible to apply to the school. Approximately 1,000 applications were received, and a 185-student freshman class was chosen by lottery.

UIC Prep's mission is to provide high school students with a challenging curriculum that focuses on health sciences education and careers. The school's proximity to the medical-college campus makes it convenient for the charter school students to shadow doctors and other health-care professionals, attend lectures and demonstrations, and participate in internships and volunteer activities.

For current UIC students, the charter high school offers opportunities for tutoring, leadership and mentoring activities. Plans are to put a formal mentoring program together and for UIC to build a strong relationship with the charter school.

While the students at UIC College Prep will have a health-sciences education curriculum, they will employ the Noble Street Charter School educational approach that has the students focus on the self during their freshman year, the community during their sophomore year, the nation during their junior year, and the world during their senior year.

UIC College Prep students will also have the opportunity to participate in research and take UIC classes in their junior and senior years. While the students will not be required to attend UIC, those who meet the admissions standards will be given a high priority for admission.

Reporting by Christy Levy
**SPRINGFIELD**

**UIS tops the list**

UIS was ranked as the best public university (Master’s category) in the state of Illinois in U.S. News & World Report’s 2009 Edition of America’s Best Colleges. The campus was ranked as the fourth best public university in that category in the 12-state Midwest region. The Master’s category includes colleges and universities that provide a full range of undergraduate and master’s programs but only a few, if any, doctoral programs. The rankings are based on several key measures of quality including peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

**CHICAGO**

**Glass ceiling still in place**

Family-work conflict appears to play a role in women’s career progress, according to the findings of a UIC study by Jenny Hoobler (l), assistant professor of managerial studies. Along with colleagues Sandy Wayne (r), professor of managerial studies, and Grace Lemmon, business administration graduate student, Hoobler looked at managers’ perceptions of their female subordinates’ family-to-work conflict to identify mechanisms that explain women’s limited career advancement. Using managers and subordinates from a Fortune 100 company, the team found that both male and female bosses perceive women, as compared to men, as having greater family-work conflict (defined as the extent to which family demands spill over to affect work demands), which may explain why women receive fewer promotions.

**CHICAGO**

**Book examines faith and the working class**

A new book by UIC labor expert Robert Bruno poses the simple but rarely asked question: What role do faith and religious observance play in the everyday lives of working people? Bruno’s book “Justified by Work” (Ohio State University Press) explains the identity and meaning of faith in Chicago’s working-class churches. According to Bruno, director of the Chicago Labor Education Program and associate professor, little is known about the theological beliefs and experiences of working-class Americans. The book shares the stories, beliefs and experiences of more than 100 working-class, Chicago-area people of faith.

**URBANA**

**Video exploration**

Public broadcasting affiliate WILL received a grant from the PBS Foundation’s Adobe Youth Voices Venture Fund to continue and expand its Youth Media Workshop project. The grant will fund video shorts exploring social issues from an intergenerational perspective. Thirty economically diverse black students will use the latest portable digital technology to create the videos, which will be posted to a Youth Media Workshop website that the students will design and maintain. Teachers and students in the College of Media will attend training during the summer of 2009. Once trained, they will work with and mentor 10 students from each of three public schools during the 2009-10 school year.

**URBANA**

**New option for Chicago pet owners**

Urbana’s College of Veterinary Medicine will open the Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine in the Illinois Medical District in spring 2009. A first-of-its-kind initiative for a US veterinary college, the center is a primary care teaching facility showcasing the future of veterinary practice including greeters with tablet PCs for in-take duties in the reception area, video-conferencing facilities to link clients and students with specialists in Urbana, and state-of-the-art imaging, lab and surgery capabilities. The center is located at 2242 West Harrison Street in the Illinois Medical District, an area that is underserved by veterinary practices and easily accessible by public transportation.
**Paralympians show up rolling fast in Beijing**

Around the Urbana campus, arguably the birthplace of wheelchair athletics, the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing in September were a big deal.

Start with the sheer number of Illini athletes: 16 who competed on the US men’s and women’s wheelchair basketball teams. Other student-athlete representatives were track and field standouts Jessica Galli, Anjali Forber-Pratt and Amanda McGrory; alumnus Joshua George; and team coach Adam Bleakney.

Then, consider the medals they brought home: The US women’s basketball team — seven of the 12 team members were Illini — took the gold medal. Co-captain Patty Cisneros, head coach of the Illini women’s wheelchair hoops team, said the team’s second consecutive victory was harder than the first.

“It was a little more difficult,” a psyched Cisneros said, “because we had such a big target on our backs, and we rose to the challenge. There’s no better feeling than knowing you’re the best in the world.”

Galli (above) won the gold medal and set a world record in the women’s 400-meter race. She also won three silver medals and a bronze. George took the gold in the men’s 100-meter and silver in the 800-meter races. McGrory won gold in the women’s 500 meter, silver in the Marathon and bronzes in the 800 meter and 4x100 relay.

Two-degree alumna Jean Driscoll, a former Paralympian herself, was part of the seven-person Presidential Delegation, appointed by George W. Bush, at the Beijing games. She won five golds, three silver and four bronze medals in four Paralympic games and eight Boston Marathons.

“I’m proud to be representing the country, the office of the President and the President,” Driscoll said a few days before she left. “I’ll be representing the University, too. The U of I’s reputation is worldwide, and everywhere I go, I talk about the U of I.”

Reporting by Melissa Mitchell
**Chicago**

Making sense (and dollars and cents) from data

Philip Yu (r) knows how to deal with data — a lot of data. Yu joined UIC’s Department of Computer Science after almost 30 years at IBM, where he managed the software tools and techniques group at the Thomas J. Watson Research Center. His job there was to invent innovative technology to manage huge amounts of data — accumulated from credit-card purchases or cell phone records — and gain knowledge from it. Yu, the first Peter (I) and Deborah Wexler Endowed Chair in Information Technology, teaches data mining. To his new role as professor, Yu brings his years of experience as an employer of new PhDs. Those insights will help him train students to be attractive to industry after graduation.

**Urbana**

Advanced Digital Sciences Center established

The Urbana campus and Singapore’s Agency for Science, Technology and Research, or A*STAR, are collaborating to establish a major research center in Singapore. A*STAR, which oversees 22 research institutes, consortia and centers, will provide $50 million of renewable funding for the Advanced Digital Sciences Center (ADSC) over the next five years. ADSC will focus on breakthrough innovations in information technology that are expected to have a major impact in transforming human utilization of information technology. The signature initiative will be the Human Sixth Sense Project that will develop information technology infrastructure and human-machine interfaces to help people interact naturally with the digital world.

**Urbana**

A GEMS of a project

During the summer of 2008, stargazing in broad daylight was routine for 40 middle-school girls from central Illinois, who visualized the heavens using the Sloan Digital Sky Survey astronomy database. The girls were participants in GEMS — Girls Engaged in Math and Science — a program at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications in partnership with the Department of Astronomy on the Urbana campus. GEMS is designed to encourage girls to consider a wide range of mathematics- and science-oriented careers. The students measured the colors of stars and quasars, detected black holes and asteroids, and met with female astronomers. NASA funds the program through a grant to Robert Brunner in the Department of Astronomy.

**Urbana**

HistoryMakers collaboration reaps benefits

A three-year collaboration between the University and the HistoryMakers began in 2007 and launched in 2008 with special exhibits on each campus of free-standing banners that highlighted contributions made by African-Americans to the state and country. Other projects include faculty research and graduate and undergraduate summer internships at the archive in Chicago, work to make the almost 2,000 oral histories collection more accessible by developing “finding aids” and incorporating elements of the collection into classes. Public lectures by prominent African-Americans such as Chicago educator and community leader Timuel Black have been presented and additional lectures are planned for 2009.

**Springfield**

Award for innovation

UIS won the 2008 Ralph E. Gomory Award for Quality Online Education from the Sloan Consortium. The campus received the national award for innovative work in using quantitative data in a process of continuous quality improvement to assure excellence in online teaching and learning. The Sloan Consortium, comprised of nearly 1,500 institutions and organizations of higher education engaged in online learning, is a national organization dedicated to quality online teaching. About half of the campus’ students take at least one online class and more than 1,200 students are enrolled in UIS online degree and degree-completion programs.
Emergent literacy: It’s all a matter of making connections

The UIC Center for Literacy’s new three-year $3.8 million federal grant is introducing Chicago preschoolers to reading in some decidedly unschool-like ways.

Education professor William Teale is the principal investigator for the new grant that will fund the literacy curriculum at seven Catholic Chicago preschools. He was also responsible for the 2006 grant that is funding the literacy curriculum at Passages Charter School.

At Passages, where UIC alumna Nahrain Israel-Tapella teaches, with the assistance of grant-funded UIC literacy coach Laura Abbruzzese, reading is not a subject to be taught. Rather reading is embedded into the many things active preschoolers to do. For example:

- Students sign in by writing their names to start the school day.
- They take their places by finding their names taped on the floor.
- Then they play a memory game, finding their assigned letter of the alphabet in pictures of food, animals and other familiar objects.
- Israel-Tapella reads a book to the children, then starts again, pointing out words, teasing out interpretation and aiding comprehension.
- Letters and numbers are on the walls and supply drawers are labeled.

The idea is for the students to make connections — between letters and words; between words and the things they represent; between spoken words and written words; between books and the words and sentences that tell stories. In short, the children are immersed in an incredibly reading-rich environment.

Teale says, “Some children understand the connection between what comes out of their mouths and what’s on paper, and a lot of children know a bunch about letters but can’t spell properly. With the literacy curriculum, there is much more emphasis on interacting with language and print at a young age. We try to think about some of the ways that you can infuse early literacy into things that kids are doing all day, every day.”

Reporting by Christy Levy

Digital dark age

Are you counting on your CDs or DVDs with digital photo files to give you future access to today’s memories? Jerome McDonough calls the possibility that those digital files might be inaccessible in the future a “digital dark age.” The concern for archivists and information scientists like McDonough, a professor in Urbana’s Graduate School of Library and Information Science, is that, with ever-shifting platforms and file formats, much of the data we produce today could eventually fall into a black hole of inaccessibility. He says that a multi-pronged approach of migrating information to new formats, using open-source file formats and software, and creating data that are media independent will help avoid a new dark age.
Changing laws for foster children

When President George Bush signed the Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act in the fall of 2008, laws governing the nation’s 500,000 foster children changed — utterly.

The most significant part of the law is its provision for “subsidized guardianship.” That means that the relatives who care for one-fourth of US foster children can now receive financial assistance. Previously, children had to remain in the foster-care system or be adopted by the relatives to receive assistance.

The foundational research was a 10-year study examining the effects of relatives’ guardianship on Illinois foster children’s well-being and adoptions rate. Mark Testa, director of the Urbana campus’ Children and Family Research Center and a social work professor, led the study that offered foster families of relative children subsidies equal to those of licensed foster or adoptive parents.

Testa and his research partners found that at the end of the study’s observation period, 25 percent of the Illinois foster children with subsidized guardianships found permanent homes. Testa described this as a “huge increase” that further studies in Wisconsin and Tennessee corroborated.

The study also found savings to the state of Illinois on subsidized guardianship due to reduced administrative and judicial oversight costs: almost $2,300 per child or about $90 million when multiplied by the 40,000 children in the intervention group.

The law also offers states the option of raising the guardianship age limit from 18 to 21 years old. Testa said this gives the children a better chance of finishing school, beginning college, finding a job and increasing access to medical care.

Created in 1996 at the School of Social Work, the Children and Family Research Center is a university-agency partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. With offices in Urbana and Chicago, the center’s mission is to conduct research and advance the safety, well-being and family stability of Illinois children.

That presidential signature was a win-win-win … for children and families and states.

Reporting by Sharita Forrest

Advanced practice for nurses

Type-2 diabetes, obesity, stroke and heart disease account for about 60 percent of all deaths worldwide. UIC’s College of Nursing received a federal grant of more than $850,000 from the US Health Resources and Services Administration to develop a new advanced practice nursing program to aid elderly people with these chronic diseases. Jean Berry, clinical associate professor and project director, says that the incidence of chronic disorders is significantly higher in underserved populations. The new cardiometabolic advanced practice nursing specialty courses began in early 2009 at UIC and the College of Nursing’s four regional sites in Peoria, Rockford, Urbana and the Quad Cities.

Garfield Park solutions

UIC graduate students and faculty in urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture collaborated to produce an electronic publication with ideas for green development in East Garfield Park. “Green Schemes: Sustainable Urbanism in Garfield Park” presents 80 concepts such as filtration gardens, narrowed roadways and an elevated bikeway next to the Green Line tracks in urban Chicago. The team developed the ideas in five studios taught at the City Design Center, a unit of the College of Architecture and the Arts. The designers chose East Garfield Park because it is a mixed-income neighborhood with underused properties.

Reporting by Sharita Forrest
If clothes make the man, buildings — at least in part — make the campus. Whether a building is a home to students, houses research programs, hosts sporting events or serves as a contemplative site, each adds to the structural resources and ambiance of the campus. On this page are photos of new or refurbished buildings completed in 2008.

1. UIC Forum, Chicago
2. Activities and Recreation Center, Urbana
3. Founders Hall, Springfield
4. Japanese Garden, Springfield
5. Bookstore and coffee shop, Springfield
6. iHotel and Conference Center, Urbana
7. Memorial Stadium, Urbana
8. Grant Hall Computer Lab, Chicago
9. Business Instructional Facility, Urbana
10. Chancellor’s residence, Chicago
Role model for fair hiring

US companies are helping spread fair hiring practices across the globe as they set up shop in developing nations, according to a study co-written by labor expert John Lawler in the School of Labor and Employment Relations. American-based firms tend to follow US hiring laws even when they are doing business in countries with no anti-discrimination standards. Lawler’s study examined recruitment ads published by multinational corporations seeking management and professional workers in Taiwan and Thailand between 1993 and 1999, when neither country had gender and age discrimination laws. By following US practices, Lawler says that the companies create a positive model that will have an impact internationally.

Impact and excellence

If numbers are any indication, Bernard Turnock has had an impact on public health. He’s taught an introductory public health course to more than 3,000 students, including more than 1,500 in a completely online format, and his textbooks have been used by nearly 40,000 public health students since 1997. Turnock, director of the community health sciences division of UIC’s School of Public Health, has also designed and taught more than 60 online continuing education courses that have served more than 2,000 public health practitioners. An innovator in teaching methods and widely considered an expert in online learning and instruction, Turnock received the 2008 Faculty Award for Excellence in Academic Public Health Practice from the Association of Schools of Public Health.

Parks an investment in community members’ health

Just about everybody agrees that parks are a pleasant community amenity. A recent study showed that they are much more than that. They are also valuable partners in promoting active, healthy lifestyles of the community’s residents.

Laura Payne, an Extension educator with a joint appointment in Urbana’s recreation, sport and tourism department’s Office of Recreation and Park Resources, is the lead author in a study that found “health partnerships are well established and well received across most recreational and park organizations …”

The study was based on an online survey of 1,200 park and recreation administrators and interviews with 16 park and recreation professionals. Payne and her co-investigators found that 88 percent of parks partner with community health agencies, including schools, county and state health departments, and non-profit health organizations, such as the Association for the Advancement of Retired People and the American Heart Association.

Payne said, “With the oncoming crisis with obesity and related issues, health organizations — whether a cardiac rehabilitation center, assisted-living center or social service agencies — realized early on that we have a seat at the table. Parks and recreation is the place people go to work on their lifestyle issues. We have the parks, the recreation centers and the pools, so we realized how important the connection is.”

Payne said that while interest in park-health agency partnerships flourishes in urban areas with abundant resources, rural areas also expressed interest in the connection.

“ln rural areas, it all comes down to three things,” Payne said. “Money, volunteers and knowledge. You’ve got to know what to do, have the ability to communicate the plan, and there has to be a way to fuel the funding.”

Once communities buy in to the park-health agency partnership concept, it turns out that a healthier citizenry is just a walk in the park.

Reporting by Melissa Mitchell

High-tech devices from EVL

UIC’s Electronic Visualization Laboratory (EVL) takes visualizing data and information to new heights. EVL technology was used during the inauguration of Barack Obama when the Department of the Interior used a portable version of EVL’s OptiPortal — a wall-sized display of flat-screen LCD monitors that show ultra-high-resolution images backed by supercomputer power — to provide expansive, razor-sharp aerial pictures of the inauguration site. The wall display measures four by eight feet, delivers a 35-megapixel image, and runs EVL-developed software named “Magic Carpet,” called “Google Maps on steroids” by Jason Leigh, associate professor of computer science and EVL’s co-director.

In late 2008, EVL unveiled TacTile (right), a display device that puts interaction with high-definition scientific imagery at the fingertips of scientists — literally. The multi-touch, 52-inch LCD tabletop display lets multiple users pan, zoom and interact with highly detailed imagery and applications in real time and with improved resolution and accuracy over displays based on video projection. TacTile targets scientific researchers who require high resolution to gain insight into complex datasets and to tackle 21st-century problems ranging from the origin of the universe to global climate change.
SPRINGFIELD

Illinois Issues in top 50

In the summer 2008, the Chicago Tribune selected Illinois Issues magazine as one of its 50 favorite magazines. Writing that the magazine isn’t just for “policy wonks,” the Tribune called the articles on education, immigration, conservation and corruption “lively and well-informed.” The magazine, published 11 times a year by the UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership, is the state’s leading publication on Illinois state government and politics. The online version of the magazine gives readers access to a news blog by the magazine’s statehouse bureau chief, links to daily newspapers, access to past issues of the magazine and other public policy resources.

Unique Urbana research testbed

Everybody is talking about climate change, but Urbana researchers are figuring out what its effects on agriculture will be and how to keep agriculture productive as growing conditions change.

Two Institute for Genomic Biology researchers wanted to find out how increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide would affect soybeans’ natural defenses against leaf-eating insects. What they found was that elevated carbon dioxide makes soybeans more susceptible to Japanese beetles, Western corn rootworms and Asian soybean aphids.

Evan DeLucia, a plant biology professor, and May Berenbaum, entomology professor, did their experiments at the Soybean Free Air Concentration Enrichment (SoyFACE) facility on the campus’ south side.

Established in 2001 by Stephen Long, professor of plant biology and crop sciences, SoyFACE is a unique, 40-acre research facility with plots to which precisely regulated amounts of CO₂ and/or ozone can be delivered. Using SoyFACE, the researchers exposed soybean plants to the equivalent of the increased amounts of atmospheric CO₂ projected for the year 2050, while keeping the plants’ exposure to the elements and insects in play.

DeLucia said, “What we found was startling.” When the soybeans were exposed to higher levels of CO₂, like that of a global-warmed future, the beetles lived longer, produced more offspring and did more damage.

DeLucia and Berenbaum knew about a key soybean hormone, jasmonic acid, which counterattacks beetles by producing an enzyme that inhibits the marauders’ ability to digest the leaves. The increased atmospheric CO₂ shuts down the plants’ jasmonic acid natural defense leaving the insects fat, happy and living longer and inflicting more damage on the soybeans.

The results show that global environmental change is complex and multifaceted. There’s more work to do to see if the effects of higher atmospheric CO₂ will result in the same kind of reactions in other important food crops. Then, if some global warming is indeed inevitable, the next step becomes how to protect or design food crops that are resistant to changed environmental factors.

The SoyFACE facility is also used by researchers from plant biology, crop sciences, animal sciences, food science and human nutrition, and natural resources and environmental sciences.

Reporting by Diana Yates and James Kloeppel
Innovation award for architecture

Doug Garofalo, professor of architecture and principal of Garofalo Architects, has an international reputation because of his cross-disciplinary approach to his design projects, which include museums, public spaces, houses and commercial buildings. In late 2008 Garofalo was named a recipient of a $50,000 award that acknowledged him as an innovator among artists working in all fields and media. The award is one of 50 given annually by United States Artists, a three-year-old organization formed to support individual artists rather than art institutions. The unrestricted grants are awarded to artists in any stage of a career in visual art, design, literature, performing arts or media arts.

Recovery coaches effective

A groundbreaking study led by Joseph Ryan, a faculty member in Urbana’s School of Social Work, indicates that recovery coaches can significantly reduce the number of substance-exposed births as well as help reunite substance-involved families, saving state child-welfare systems millions of dollars in foster care and other placement costs. The study, part of a larger collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services and Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities, evaluated the impact of the services of recovery coaches, case-workers with special training in addiction, relapse prevention and counseling. At the end of the study, mothers assigned to the recovery-coach group were more likely to access substance-abuse services and were more likely to achieve family reunification, saving the state of Illinois $5.5 million.

Pro-business rulings translate to more consumer debt

Robert Lawless says pro-business rulings by the Supreme Court have saddled credit card users with whopping interest rates and fees and left homeowners with little relief when they turn to bankruptcy court to avoid foreclosure and repossession. The rulings, says Lawless, are digging into Americans’ pocketbooks, contributing to staggering mortgage and consumer debt that now averages more than $53,000 for every man, woman and child in the nation. According to the professor of law, a solution is to establish rules that would require justices to lean toward consumers rather than business when interpreting ambiguous statutes.

Judging neighborhood quality

Race is a powerful factor in determining how whites regard a neighborhood, according to a study led by UIC sociologist Maria Krysan. Shown videos of the same residential streets — the only difference being the race of the people who seemed to live there — whites rated the neighborhoods with black residents lower in quality than the ones with white residents. Racially mixed neighborhoods fell in between. According to Krysan and her colleagues, understanding the barriers to integration is the first step to finding a solution to segregation. The study was funded by the National Science Foundation, the University of Michigan, the Ford Foundation and UIC.

Peace Corps partnership

UIC is partnering with the Peace Corps to offer two master’s degree programs combining a 27-month Peace Corps assignment with coursework. The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs offers a master of urban planning and policy degree, and the School of Public Health offers a master of public health degree in conjunction with the Peace Corps Master’s International Program. Students complete projects while overseas to earn practicum credit. After completing Peace Corps service, each student will return to the classroom to conduct a project based on his overseas experience and finish the coursework established by each college.
New look at liver disease
Liverspecialist Scott Cotler is working to improve diagnosis and treatment of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, the most common cause of chronic hepatitis in the United States. He and Xiaohong Joe Zhou, associate professor of neurosurgery in the Magnetic Resonance Research Center, are developing a noninvasive MRI technique to measure the amount of fat in the liver. Other collaborators in the UIC College of Medicine are working on identifying gene expression patterns that could help identify patients likely to develop progressive liver disease. Cotler hopes the research, funded by a pilot grant from the Center for Clinical and Translational Science, will identify people who are at risk and ways that the risk can be reduced.

Urbana faculty poets reap prestigious national poetry awards
Two English department creative writing professors received awards and cash prizes for their poetry in 2008.
Brigit Pegeen Kelly (top) won the 2008 American Academy of Poets Fellowship and the $25,000 stipend that comes with it. The award recognizes a career of poetic achievement. Kelly read from her work at the Academy’s Poets Awards Ceremony in New York in November 2008.

Curtis Perry, said: “The Academy Fellowship is not something you can apply for. It looks an awful lot like the canon of 20th- and 21st-century poetry.”

Previous fellowship winners have included poetry heavyweights Robert Frost, Marianne Moore, and William Carlos Williams. Kelly was finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for poetry for her 2004 book, “The Orchard,” and has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Janice N. Harrington won the 2008 Kate Tufts Discovery Award, sponsored by Claremont Graduate University, and $10,000 for her book of poems, “Even the Hollow My Body Made is Gone.” The book received a thumbs-up on the New Yorker’s Briefly Noted page on new books.

Harrington grew up in segregated Alabama and is known as a children’s writer and storyteller. Her children’s book, “Going North,” is based on her childhood and her family’s experience moving north to Lincoln, Nebraska, in the 1960s.

She says poetry, despite the periodic pronouncements of its ultimate demise, is alive and well on the Urbana campus among students, faculty and in the community. They all regularly participate in poetry readings at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

Harrington teaches beginning and advanced undergraduate creative writing poetry workshops. She describes her role as “fanning student fires and enthusiasm, getting them engaged, introducing them to new poets, letting them give and take feedback with their peers … and by learning to read a poem in depth, intensely … showing them how to read their own poems.”

Harrington is teaching her first graduate class in the spring 2009 semester. “I’m excited,” she said. “These are adult poets, and this is a partnership, reading, hearing and exploring together. My role is to be a window and not a door.”

Reporting by Melissa Mitchell
**CHICAGO**

Improving policies to improve health

UIC’s ImpaTeen project received a four-year, $16 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study policy and environmental factors that influence youth behaviors related to nutrition, physical activity, obesity and tobacco use. The goal of the project is to provide comprehensive and definitive research that will enable legislators and policymakers to develop effective policy and make informed decisions about appropriating dollars earmarked for changing youth health behaviors. Frank Chaloupka, distinguished professor of economics and director of the Health Policy Center at the Institute for Health Research and Policy, is the principal investigator of the study, which will look at marketing and wellness policies at the national, state and local levels.

**URBANA**

On cable, on target

What’s new? For Urbana students and cable-watching residents of the east-central Illinois area, what’s new is more locally produced content on UI-7, the cable television service of the College of Media. As part of an initiative launched in 2008, UI-7 now features programming and news produced, directed, written and filmed by broadcast journalism students from the college. Airing on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year, the stories cover University and local news, including lead stories, features, sports and weather.

**CHICAGO**

Sustainable brownfields

A brownfield is a site where redevelopment could be complicated because of the presence of a hazardous substance. The US Environmental Protection Agency awarded UIC’s Institute for Environmental Science and Policy a five-year, $750,000 grant to identify best management practices for redeveloping sites sustainably, gauge the benefits and get the information to the public and policymakers. The UIC research team of Susan Kaplan, Thomas Theis, Joshua Linn and Serap Erdal will work with Urbana campus researchers John Braden and Marilyn Ruiz and other collaborators to define what it means to turn a brownfield into a new green development in a way that sustains the site as eco-friendly – and the value of doing so. A website detailing best management practices will be among the first public offerings, along with an easy-to-use guidebook.

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

Sustainability a top priority

Going green. Thinking globally and acting locally. In 2008, each campus established an office of sustainability that is expected to play a leadership role in reducing energy consumption. In Urbana, staff completed an evaluation of one million square feet of campus buildings to identify inefficiencies. The Facilities & Services Waste Transfer Station diverted almost half of the campus’ waste stream from landfills. In Urbana and Chicago, staff installed high-performance lamps to increase the energy efficiency of light fixtures. Future new construction, remodeling and renovation projects of $5 million or greater will be LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certified. Projects under $5 million are expected to comply with LEED® Silver requirements as much as possible.

**CHICAGO**

A healthy scare

Being frightened of the dentist might be good for patients. According to assistant professor of periodontics Christopher Engeland, patients who expected more pain during a dental procedure or were more frightened of the dentist healed faster. The anticipated level of pain had the strongest correlation with faster healing. Corticosteroids levels in such patients are higher, leading Engeland to study the effects of corticosteroids on tissue inflammation and the healing of oral wounds. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the study could change the habits of some dental clinicians who are currently reluctant to prescribe corticosteroids to their patients.
During the fall 2008 semester, four UIC doctoral students in occupational therapy completed month-long practicums at Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru, a Peruvian community-based teaching and research center for young and poor people with disabilities.

The South American connection was between Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, department head of occupational therapy in the College of Applied Health Sciences, and her University of Kansas graduate-school classmate of more than two decades ago, Liliana Mayo, the Peruvian center’s founder and director.

Suarez-Balcazar said, “The center has physical therapists, psychologists and special educators on staff but no occupational therapists.” So having OT students at the center provided experience for the students and helped the clinic’s clients. The four students — Monica Ciukaj, Juleen Rodakowski, Dana Nadel (above, l-r) and Paula Cook (kneeling) — brought their UIC occupational-therapy knowledge to the cases.

The students had to be inventive. For example, they precisely measured, custom fit and refurbished an old wheelchair for a non-ambulatory, bedridden 12-year-old named Kevin, who, Cook said, was amazingly patient during the process. After she and her OT team completed the final adjustment, there sat Kevin, proud, smiling, upright and mobile for the first time in his young life.

“The thing is,” Cook said, “you wonder how many other Kevins there are out there.”

Working 10-hour days with limited resources and rudimentary Spanish skills made the human successes, like Kevin’s, even more gratifying to the students. Cook said, “As Americans, we might sometimes think that when we go to a developing country, we’re going to give something to them. I found the opposite to be true. I’m bringing a lot back.”

UIC’s Dean Toby Tate and Suarez-Balcazar are optimistic about expanding practicum opportunities both for occupational-therapy students as well as others in the college. Multidisciplinary teams are a distinct possibility.

Suarez-Balcazar said, “I envision other students from our college — from nutrition, physical therapy, kinesiology — participating as well. Really, all Applied Health Sciences could offer, and learn, a great deal through this wonderful program.”
**Chicago**

Grant extends special education support

UIC's Monarch Center was awarded a five-year, $7.5 million grant by the US Department of Education to prepare special education teachers. Established in 2003, the national center supports teacher- and principal-preparation programs to increase the numbers and quality of special education graduates. Norma Lopez-Reyna, associate professor of special education and the center's director, says the goal of the Monarch Center is to effect positive change in the lives of children with disabilities, particularly those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The center provides direct technical assistance to faculty who train special educators at colleges and universities where the enrollment is at least 25 percent minority. The funds support curriculum and grant proposal development through seminars, workshops, mentoring and a website.

**Chicag**

Fighting spread of HIV from mother to baby

The lives of hundreds of thousands of infants around the world could be saved each year through new technology to prevent the passing of HIV from mother to child during breastfeeding. Mother-to-child transmission of HIV through breast milk could be blocked if, before feeding at the breast, infants were fed a freeze-dried formula containing a special strain of Lactobacillus. According to Lin Tao, associate professor of oral biology who developed the technology, Lactobacilli are "friendly" bacteria inhabiting the human digestive tract and found in dairy products such as yogurt. The bacteria produce proteins that bind to sugars that coat and destroy the HIV virus. Tao and colleague Renjie Chang of Lavax Health developed a new freeze-drying method which has been tested in laboratories at different temperatures to ensure that it remained effective.

**Urbana**

Lessons from the past

Under the direction of Christopher Fennell, a team of students spent the summer of 2008 unearthing remains of New Philadelphia, a lost western Illinois town where blacks and whites lived together in peace and freedom a quarter century before the Civil War broke the grip of slavery. The project has uncovered more than 65,000 artifacts and the remains of a dozen houses and businesses. Findings indicate the community was generations ahead of its time, with blacks and whites living side by side and with an integrated school. Archeologist Fennell has more work to do. He and his collaborators have looked at only seven of New Philadelphia's 42 acres.

**Urbana**

Tracking park residents

John Griesbaum looks low and high for western fox snakes at Allerton Park, a park and research site located in Monticello. He tags larger snakes with radio transmitters and then tracks their movements in the park. The snakes can be found in burrows and sometimes high in trees. A graduate student in Urbana's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, Griesbaum is studying the snake species to provide information to policy makers and practitioners about how management of natural areas — including mowing, managed burns and brush removal — impacts the well-being of the snakes and the health of the snake population.

**Urbana**

An edge most fleeting

New research by economics professor Darren Lubotsky challenges a growing trend toward holding kids out of kindergarten until they're older, arguing that academic advantages are short-lived and come at the expense of delaying entry into the workforce and other costs. Lubotsky's findings show older kindergartners fare better academically largely because they learn more before starting school, not because age improves aptitude. Any edge soon fades and nearly vanishes by eighth grade. He says parents and lawmakers need to weigh costs and benefits as they consider when to start kids in kindergarten.

**Urbana**

Blowin' in the wind

While harnessing more energy from the wind could help satisfy growing demands for electricity and reduce emissions of global-warming gases, turbulence from proposed wind farms could adversely affect the growth of crops in the surrounding countryside. Somnath Baidya Roy, a professor of atmospheric sciences, says that by identifying better siting criteria, determining optimum spacing between wind turbines and designing more efficient rotors, some of the harmful impacts of wind farms on crops can be minimized. The first step in reducing the effects of turbulence on local hydrometeorological conditions is to identify regions around the world where wind energy and frictional dissipation are high.

**Urbana**

Grant extends special education support

UIC's Monarch Center was awarded a five-year, $7.5 million grant by the US Department of Education to prepare special education teachers. Established in 2003, the national center supports teacher- and principal-preparation programs to increase the numbers and quality of special education graduates. Norma Lopez-Reyna, associate professor of special education and the center's director, says the goal of the Monarch Center is to effect positive change in the lives of children with disabilities, particularly those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The center provides direct technical assistance to faculty who train special educators at colleges and universities where the enrollment is at least 25 percent minority. The funds support curriculum and grant proposal development through seminars, workshops, mentoring and a website.
Dedicated to better urban health care

In 2008, UIC celebrated the 30th anniversary of its Urban Health Program.

In 1978 the Illinois State Legislature called upon the campus to recruit, retain and graduate students from underrepresented groups in health-care fields. The further goal was to improve urban health, particularly in predominantly minority communities.

Dr. Michael Toney, executive director of the program, said, “The face of our nation is changing. We’re working to see that the face of health care is changing as well.”

All of UIC’s health-sciences colleges — applied health sciences, dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, the school of public health and the graduate college — participate in the Urban Health Program, which reaches students early in their education and helps them develop the basic skills necessary to prepare for a career in the health professions.

Underrepresented groups — blacks, Latinos and American Indians — often live in cities’ most unhealthy areas, those lacking sufficient local health-care facilities and providers. In addition, Toney said they have high levels of obesity, heart disease and diabetes. He encourages students to consider working in communities that need them the most. Third-year pharmacy student Pedro Abreu (above), for example, is committed to serving a minority population when he graduates.

Dr. Jorge Girotti is director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence, which recruits Latino medical students and faculty and sponsors research and curricular advances to better address minority health issues.

Girotti said, “Our track record is a reflection of the support of college leaders as well as faculty and local physicians. Students know that when they come to UIC, they will receive an excellent education and dedicated support.”

Seventy percent of Chicago's black and Latino physicians are UIC graduates. Historically, the Urban Health Program has graduated almost 5,000 minority health-care professionals.

For the past 15 years, the journal Black Issues in Higher Education has ranked UIC third or fourth among the top 100 institutions granting medical degrees to minority students. In 2008 and 2007, the College of Medicine was named one of the Best Schools for Hispanics by Hispanic Business magazine.

Reporting by Bill Burton, Jeanne Galatzer-Levy and Gary Wisby
**Urbana**

Weighing stroke risk and treatment

Septideh Amin-Hanjani, assistant professor of neurological surgery, will lead a five-year study to assess blood flow and stroke risk. Ischemic strokes — the type caused by clots rather than bleeds in the brain — account for 80 percent of all strokes. Advances in endovascular techniques, such as placing a stent in a vessel, provide new treatment options for patients with stroke. But these interventions carry risks, and physicians don’t always know which patients are appropriate candidates for these procedures. The $2.1 million multi-institutional study, funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, will evaluate imaging options and medication therapies over a minimum 12-month period. The research team includes (l-r, back) Linda Rose-Finnell, Karriem Watson and Nada Mlinarevich.

**Urbana**

Staving off dementia

Individuals diagnosed with early-stage dementia can slow their physical, mental and psychological decline by taking part in therapeutic programs that mix counseling, support groups and Tai Ji and qigong, martial arts that combine simple physical movements with meditation. Some of the benefits of this approach are comparable to those achieved with anti-dementia medications. Sandy Burgener, a professor of nursing in Urbana, is an advocate of further research into non-pharmacological interventions for people with dementia, something she believes can make a difference in how people diagnosed with early-stage dementia live.

**Urbana**

Consumers willing to rethink the brand

Business administration professor Sharon Shavitt says most consumers crave a clear understanding of brand images, making them more receptive to new marketing messages if anything clouds their vision of companies or products. The findings from a study released in early 2009 are good news for companies seeking to retool the image of seemingly ingrained brands, such as McDonald’s efforts to promote salads and other healthful menu options. According to Shavitt, consumers are constantly monitoring their sense of understanding of a brand and are willing to change their views, giving companies the opportunity to reinvent themselves.

**Springfield**

Service initiatives honored

UIS was named to the 2008 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts to the local community. Student service projects include a mentoring program for middle-school students, beautifying a local school and working with a regional food bank. UIS also offers service-learning courses that combine academic learning and community service.
The total 2008-09 operating budget for the University of Illinois is $4.17 billion.*

**Voluntary Support**
Fiscal Year 2008: $213.9 million

In FY08, 138,303 separate gifts were made to the University of Illinois. During the five years ended in June 2008, the University and University Foundation received more than $915.4 million in gift income.

*Includes $517.9 million in payments made by the State of Illinois “on behalf of” the University for employee benefits and $25.8 million for Academic Facilities Maintenance Fund Assessment.
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UIS News Bureau  www.uis.edu/newsbureau  

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois, March 2009. 11K copies/P0233723.
# BY THE NUMBERS

Campus locations: Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield, with branches of the Chicago-based College of Medicine in Peoria, Rockford and Urbana.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total on-campus enrollment</td>
<td>69,678 (Fall 2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-time equivalent employees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
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<td>Administrative and professional</td>
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<td>Graduate assistants (headcount)</td>
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<td>Operating budget*</td>
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<td>Student organizations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Includes $517.9 million in payments made by the State of Illinois “on behalf of” the University for employee benefits and $25.8 million for Academic Facilities Maintenance Fund Assessment.